

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-10 are pending, with all claims rejected based on prior art.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,905,176; hereinafter “Schulz”). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulz in view of Read et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,243; hereinafter “Read”).

Independent claim 3 recites “A digital integrated circuit comprising: an asynchronous circuit, and means for time-varying a supply voltage of said asynchronous circuit ..., wherein said means for time-varying said supply voltage comprises a random number generator.”

In contrast, Schulz does not teach a random number generator time-varying a supply voltage. Schulz discloses that “The frequency of the voltage variation ... is produced by noise on the power supply and supply lines itself, and is also produced by on-chip noise sources 40' ...” Schulz, Column 4, lines 30-33. The noise to vary Schulz’s supply voltage is therefore not produced by a random number generator.

Rather than produce the noise to vary the supply voltage, Schulz’s linear feedback shift register 42 is provided with the time-varied supply voltage and outputs an asynchronous serial random number to be sampled by flip-flop 26. Schulz, column 2, lines 24-31, and Figure 1.

Since amended independent claim 1 includes limitations similar to the limitation discussed above with respect to independent claim 3, it is patentable over Schulz for at least the same reasons. Claims 5 and 7-10 depend from the independent claims, and are therefore patentable over Schulz for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 6, which depends on independent claim 3, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of the additional Read reference. Read is not cited to cure Schulz’s deficiencies, but rather for its disclosure of another feature, which, whether or not it does disclose, fails to cure the

noted deficiencies in Schulz. Thus dependent claim 6 is patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependence on independent claim 3.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Dated: October 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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